PRISONS (IRELAND) (CLOSING OF RICHMOND PRISON, DUBLIN).

RETURN to an Order of the Honourable The House of Commons, dated 27 June 1892;—*for*,

COPY "of RETURN of (I.) STATEMENT of the circumstances connected with the Closing of RICHMOND PRISON, DUBLIN, and (II.) the EXPENDITURE on Structural Alterations at MOUNTJOY PRISON consequent upon the Closing of RICHMOND PRISON."

I.—STATEMENT of the circumstances connected with the Closing of RICHMOND PRISON, DUBLIN.

A ROYAL COMMISSION appointed under Warrant, dated 29th December 1882, to inquire into the administration. discipline and condition of prisons in Ireland, both local and convict, and which finally reported in August 1884, advised that a reduction of the number of local prisons, and the concentration of the prisoners in fewer and larger prisons were indispensable conditions for the introduction of those improvements which were most urgently required in the then existing prison system, and, specifically referring to the case of Dublin, recommended that upon a Public Works prison being established for the whole of the male convicts in Mountjoy, the latter prison should be used for the local prisoners confined in Dublin.

The Public Works prison was not established, but the number of convicts in Mountjoy Prison rapidly diminished from 658 at the end of 1883, to 413 at the end of 1886, and the General Prisons Board reported to the Lord Lieutenant on 10th February 1887, that owing to the large reduction in the convict population of Mountjoy, all the convicts could be located in a separate division of that prison, and that, therefore, the Board were prepared to carry out the recommendation of the Royal Commission in regard to concentration, and submitted that Richmond Prison (which was structurally defective for prison requirements) should accordingly be closed, and that the class of prisoners hitherto committed to that prison should thenceforward be committed to Mountjoy.

Upon the necessary inquiries being completed in regard to the proposal, and upon arrangements being carried out to meet the cases of the existing staff of Richmond Prison, the Lord Lieutenant directed that the closing of this prison should take effect from the end of the then current financial year 1887-88.

The military authorities subsequently had these premises assigned to them for the purposes of a barrack, under the powers contained in the Prisons (Ireland) Act, 1887, subject to the ground rent of 137 *l.* 4 *s.* 4 *d.* a year. The application of the premises to this purpose was first suggested in February 1888, that is about a year after the proposal to close the prison had been made, and was in course of being carried out.

II.—EXPENDITURE on Structural Alterations at MOUNTJOY PRISON consequent upon the Closing of RICHMOND PRISON.

(*a.*) Provision of a reception, baths, fumigating house, and visiting house:—

	£.	*s.*	*d.*
Expenditure in 1886-87	52	2	7
„ 1887-88	530	4	1
„ 1888-89	98	13	4
TOTAL	£. 681	–	–

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"(6.) Provision of increased cellular accommodation to meet present and possible future requirements:—

	£	s.	d.
Expenditure in 1889–90	328	17	–
„ 1890–91	400	–	–
„ 1891 92	600	–	–
TOTAL	£ 1,328	17	–

* The expenditure was to provide accommodation for such prisoners as would have been under the previous conditions committable to Richmond Prison, and also in order to carry out the recommendations of the Royal Commission in regard to the concentration of prisoners in one prison in Dublin.

Dublin Castle,
July 1892.

West Ridgeway

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(*Mr. Jackson.*)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
27 *June* 1892.

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